guilds have often been very powerful and have even coerced officials or the general community.

In addition to the guilds organized by particular crafts, professions, or types of business there have been what are usually called in English provincial guilds. Uniting the natives of a province or city who reside in another city, they are evidence of the strong local loyalties found in China, as elsewhere, and of community discrimination in favor of natives and against outsiders. The provincial guilds provide social and business *rendezvous,* give aid to indigent fellow-provincials, and at times assist in promoting the business interests of their members.

So strong has been the habit of working through guilds that in some cities an organization like a guild and including most of the merchants of the locality has become the governing body of the entire community. Notable instances have been seen in Swatow and Newchwang.

Moreover, secret societies, so prominent a factor in Chinese life, have entered into commerce. Organizations of that character of more than local extent sometimes bring together members of related businesses and occupations in an entire region —boatmen on the Yangtze, for example, and some of the shippers.

These societies and the guilds have often been a force in politics and even in international affairs. For instance, the guilds were largely responsible for the boycott on American trade in 1907 which was induced by the ill treatment of Chinese immigrants to the United States by American officials.

Thousands of villages are too small for guilds, or, indeed, to keep alive even one merchant. In many villages and towns a market is held every day and special fairs annually or a few

times a year. To them come buyers and sellers—most of them from the immediate neighborhood, but sometimes from greater distances. Often a fair has been held under the auspices of a temple, as a means of income. In the larger villages, as well as in the towns and cities, there are, of course, many shops, each usually specializing in a particular commodity or group of commodities. Peddlers have been and are very numerous. Food shops, too, are multitudinous, perhaps partly because, living so close to the margin of subsistence as do so many of the Chinese, very little surplus is accumulated in the homes.

Much commerce has been bv means of a "middleman." The